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whether the statement that "every highly educated man at this time owned a library" finds sufficient support in the literature of the time, or rests upon general probability.

F. F. ABBOTT

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Buried Herculaneum. By ETHEL ROSS BARKER. London: A. & C. Black, 1908. Pp. vii + 254, with 9 plans and 64 illustrations. \$3.00.

"The aim of this book is to give an account of past excavations at Herculaneum: to describe, as they once were, those buildings that have been stripped of their treasures left in ruins, and reburied; and to connect with the buildings where they originally stood, the bronzes and marbles now in the museum at Naples."

After very brief chapters on the life, history, excavation, and plan of the ancient city, the author treats individual ruins: theater, basilica, temples, House of the Papyri, and other dwellings. Then follow accounts of sculpture, frescoes, statues and furniture, and inscriptions, with appendices containing bibliographies of the most important works on Herculaneum and its various classes of monuments, and, finally, catalogues of the bronzes, marbles, and frescoes, giving date of discovery of each, position when found, reference to reproductions in the present work and in Comparetti and Di Petra, and numerical designation in the Naples Museum. The interest is greatest in the parts treating of the House of the Papyri and its treasures: the 90 statues and busts and the 1,086 whole and fragmentary written works, attempts to unroll and decipher only a fifth of which cost a total of £80,000 from 1754 to 1876.

The purpose of the book as set forth in the preface is literally realized. There is little controversy in it; the material presented is so compact as to seem almost like a series of outlines or lecture-notes; the style is so inelastic and plain that the reader is surprised when he happens on the two or three little bursts in the nature of ornament; and the author is so intent on a concrete presentation of the subject as even to be guilty of a grammatical nod or two: "we have about some half-dozen frescoes;" "the laments of Pliny and Petronius *was*." Brevity, lucidity, and rapidity, however, save the work from dullness, and its conclusions seem to be based on adequate study.

For those who wish in concise and convenient form the pertinent facts regarding the excavation of Herculaneum and the character and present location of its treasures, *Buried Herculaneum* will prove serviceable. It is neither so well written nor so entertaining as Waldstein, the only other modern work on the subject, but is more unified and less extravagant, and is to be preferred as an introduction to a somewhat neglected subject. It is bound in blue and gold, with gilt top, the paper is fair, and the illustrations, mostly reproductions of Brogi and Alinari photographs, are good. The type is large, and the whole 195 pages of the body of the book may be read in two or three hours.

GRANT SHOWERMAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN